

Message Text

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S/S: RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

S E C R E T STATE 255214

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ASEC, GY, TD, BB

SUBJECT: CUBANA CRASH: ERIC SEALY

REF: GEORGETOWN 2045

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH AMB. BRITTON HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH ERIC SEALY. IN TALKING TO WILLS AND BURNHAM, YOU MAY-- IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL--EXPLAIN THAT SEALY IS A PROMINENT FIGURE IN BRIDGETOWN. HE IS WELL-KNOWN AS A MINOR POLITICAL LEADER, PROMOTER OF SPORTS EVENTS, AND A "SOCIAL ACTIVIST" WHO REGARDS HIMSELF AS A DEFENDER OF THE DOWN-TRODDEN AND OFTEN LEADS SMALL PROTESTS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. IT IS NATURAL, THEREFORE, THAT AMBASSADOR BRITTON WOULD KNOW HIM AND MEET HIM SOCIALLY ON SOME OCCASIONS. AMBASSADOR BRITTON DESCRIBES SEALY AS A "CASUAL ACQUAINTANCE" BUT BY NO MEANS A PERSON WITH WHOM HE HAS A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. AMBASSADOR BRITTON ALSO COMMENTS THAT
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SEALY IS GIVEN TO EXAGGERATING HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH

PROMINENT PEOPLE. YOU MAY ALSO STRESS THE FACT THAT
AMBASSADOR BRITTON HAS MADE A POINT OF ESTABLISHING AS
WIDE AS POSSIBLE A RANGE OF CONTACTS IN BARBADOS SOCIETY;
HE KNOWS AND IS KNOWN BY GREAT NUMBERS OF BARBADIANS
FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

2. EMBASSY BRIDGETOWN MAY WISH TO PROVIDE FURTHER
BACKGROUND ON SEALY TO EMBASSY GEORGETOWN. KISSINGER

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